

I have a rendezvous with Death

Poem by

Alan Seeger

I have a rendezvous with Death
At some disputed barricade,
When Spring comes back with rustling shade
And apple blossoms fill the air—
I have a rendezvous with Death
When Spring brings back blue days and fair.

It may be he shall take my hand
And lead me into his dark land
And close my eyes and quench my breath—
It may be I shall pass him still.
I have a rendezvous with Death
On some scarred slope of battered hill,
When Spring comes 'round again this year
And the first meadow-flowers appear.

God knows 'twere better to be deep
Pillowed in silk and scented down,
Where Love throbs out in blissful sleep,
Pulse nigh to pulse, and breath to breath,
Where hushed awakenings are dear . . .
But I've a rendezvous with Death
At midnight in some flaming town,
When Spring trips north again this year,
And I to my pledged word am true,
I shall not fail that rendezvous.

Set to Music by

GEORGE CLIFFORD VIEH

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I have a rendezvous with Death

Alan Seeger^(*)

George Clifford Vieh

Voice *Moderato* *mp*

I have a ren-dez-vous with death At

Piano *energico* *ff* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *mf*

col Pedale

poco cresc. *p*

some dis-put - ed bar-ri-cade, When Spring comes back with

poco cresc. *p*

rust - ling shade And ap - ple blos - - - soms

7 *10* *6* *12*

Red. *** *Red.* ***

^(*) From "Poems by Alan Seeger," published by Chas. Scribner's Sons, N. Y.

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B. M. Co. 5794 c

fill the air.

cresc. *f*

Red. *Red.* *Red.* *

12

I have a ren-dez-vous with

10

Red. *

rit. *meno mosso*

Death When Spring brings back blue days and

rit. *meno mosso* *p*

Red. *

a tempo
p

fair. It may be he shall

a tempo
pp

col Pedale

take my hand And lead me in - to his dark

rit.

rall. *p a tempo*

land And close my eyes and

rall. *a tempo*
l. h. *p*

Red. *

Più mosso *f*

quench my breath — It may be —

cresc. *f* 10

Red. *

I shall pass him still.

ff *sfz* 6

Red. *

mp *cresc.*

I have a ren-dez-vous with Death On some scarr'd slope of

mp *cresc.* 3 3 3 2

Red. *

f *rit.* *ad libitum*

bat - ter'd hill, ——— When spring comes round a - gain this

f *p colla voce*

rit. *3* *3* *3* *2*

And.

rit. *molto rit.*

year, And the first mea-dow flow'rs ap-pear. ———

pp *rit.* *molto rit.* *ppp* *p* *pp*

And. * *And.* *And.* *And.* *

a tempo *p*

God knows 'twere bet - ter ——— to be deep Pil - low'd in silk ———

a tempo *p*

— and scent-ed down, ——— Where Love throbs out in bliss - ful

rit. *a tempo* *p*
sleep, Pulse nigh to pulse, ——— and

p *(rit.)*
breath ——— to breath, ——— *rit.*

a tempo *p* *rit. e dim.*

Where hush'd a wa - ken-ings are

a tempo *pp* *rit.* *dim.*

*Red. ** *Red. ** *Red. ** *Red. **

a tempo *ff*

dear... But I've a ren-dez-vous with Death At

a tempo *pp* *sffz* *f*

*Red. ten. ** *Red.* *Red.*

molto rall. *p a tempo*

mid - night in some fla-ming town, When Spring trips north a - gain this year, And

molto rall. *a tempo* *p*

*Red. ** *Red.* *Red.* *Red.* *Red.*

cresc.

I to my pledg'd word am true,—

cresc.

f

Red. * *Red.* * *Red.* * *Red.* *

poco accel.

cresc. poco a poco

Red. sempre

ff a tempo

I shall not fail that

a tempo

ff

* *Red.* *

ren - dez - vous, I shall not fail that

sfz

Red. *

ren-dez-vous. I have a ren-dez-vous with Death At

p

sfz

p subito

Red. *

Red. Red. *

mid - night in some fla - - ming town,

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

Red. *

Red. sempre

ff
I shall not

ff

*

rit. p a tempo
fail that ren-dez-vous, that ren - dez - vous!

rit. a tempo
p cresc.

*Led. Led. * Led. **

Led. sempre al fine

rall.
f cresc. ff

3 3

6 6 6

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p
col Pedale

mp
O - ver the seas to -
dim. *pp*

night, love, O - ver the dark-some deeps,
mf

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col Pedale *p* *cresc.*

Pluck me star-flow-ers from the sky oh
cresc.

King For a chap-let to crown my sun and
mf

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pp *legato* *ppp*
col Pedale
Long drawn, the cool green

shad-ows Steal o'er the lake's warm breast,
mf

And the an-cient si - lence fol-lows The burn-ing sun to
mf

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Lento

Voice

pp *5* *3*
col Pedale
It is a

night of sleep mu - sic
mf

And croon-ing winds. *l.h.* *r.h.*
mf

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